

REMARKS

Applicant's Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants wish to express appreciation to Vikkram Bali for the courtesy of a personal interview which was granted to Applicant's representative Michael Faibisch (Reg. No. 48,427) at the USPTO on February 21, 2005. The Examiner's statement of the substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary, numbered Paper No. 20060221, and reflects that which transpired during the interview. Agreement was not reached.

General Remarks

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed February 7, 2005, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims under consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 18, 23, and 24 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 is currently amended, and claim 24 is a new claim. Support for new claim 24 is found at page 1, first paragraph, and page 9 lines 9 – 13 of the application as published under international publication number WO0011454, *inter alia*.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 – 13, 17-18 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luke et al. (U.S. 5,483,603) in view of Masami (JP 05-299794). Claims 14 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luke et al. (U.S. 5,483,603) in view of Masami (JP 05-299794) and further in view of Brecher et al. (5,544,256).

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections as applied to each rejected claim.

Luke et al. describes a system and method for automatic optical inspection that distinguishes between wire and substrate, and notes that the inspection of copper oxide is not easy. Masami describes a printed circuit board and manufacturing method that employs an identification mark having an oxide film formed thereon. Brecher et al. describes an automated defect classification system.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the recitation of “defining a pixel corresponding to oxidized metal as a metal pixel”. Support for this recitation is found at page 9, second paragraph of the application published under international publication number WO0011454, *inter alia*.

Nothing in Luke et al., alone or in combination with any of the other cited prior art, remotely shows or suggests determining whether oxide is present on an conductor from analysis of an image and defining a pixel in an image corresponding to oxidized metal as a metal pixel.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1, and its dependent claims 2 – 18 and 23, and to allow new claim 24, all of which are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview.

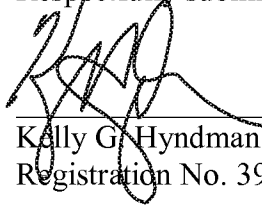
In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 U.S.C. § 1.114(c)
United States Appln. No. 09/762,945
Attorney Docket No. Q80251

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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